

THE RARS =EXCITER=



CLUB CALL: W4DW

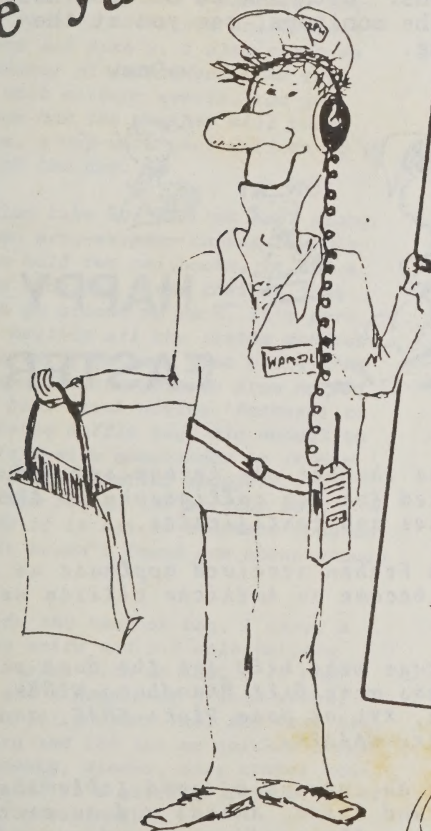


REPEATER: W4DW/R 146.04/64

APRIL 1984

ISSUE 169

See ya there!!



THE RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY'S
AN ARRL APPROVED (RARS) **12TH ANNUAL**
HAMFEST
\$4.00 GENERAL ADMISSION
ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT 8:00 A.M.
APRIL 15 1984
CRABTREE VALLEY MALL
US 70 WEST
RALEIGH, N.C.

★ PRIZES!!!

1ST PRIZE - Choice of either an ICOM IC-745 HF transceiver with a PS 35 internal power supply, OR: An ICOM IC-271A 2 meter 25 watt multi-mode transceiver with a PS 25 internal power supply and a Mirago 83016 160 watt amplifier with heavy duty AC power supply. G.I.S.M.O. of Rock Hill, SC assisted RARS on this prize.

2ND PRIZE - Kenwood TR 2950 2 meter 45 watt FM transceiver. G.I.S.M.O. of Rock Hill, SC assisted RARS on this prize.

3RD PRIZE - Tolex Hi-Gain Ham TV antenna rotator. Tolex assisted RARS on this prize.

WANTY OTHER PRIZES WILL BE DRAWN ALL DAY SUNDAY!!!

★ E-X-P-A-N-D-E-D FLEA MARKET (Covered)

★ WALK TO NEARBY MOTELS AND RESTAURANTS
Howard Johnson-Crabtree Valley
Sheraton Crabtree Motor Inn
Ramada Inn-Crabtree
Comfort Inn-Crabtree

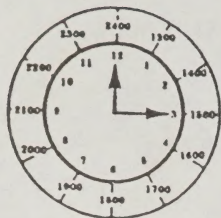
★ HOSPITALITY ROOM AT CRABTREE MALL
WEST COMMUNITY ROOM ON SATURDAY EVENING,
7 till 10 p.m. - Social and Door Prizes!

★ SPECIAL INTEREST MEETINGS: M.A.R.S., & OTHERS.

★ CW & HOMEBREW CONTESTS
1-919-782-8718
1-919-782-7111
1-919-782-7676
1-919-782-7071

★ TALK-IN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
W4DW (146.04/146.64)
K4TEL (146.20/146.80)

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, DETAILS, OR RESERVATIONS WRITE
RARS Hamfest, P. O. Box 17172, Raleigh, N.C. 27619



MINUTES OF THE MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on March 7, 1984, at the NCSU Faculty Club for the 5th Annual RARS Awards Banquet. Sixty-six members and guests were present. The social hour began at 6:00 followed by a delicious buffet dinner. Members and guests were welcomed by President Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW.

The program for the evening followed dinner. The speaker was Bob Thomas, Cable Administrator of Raleigh, who gave a most informative and interesting speech on Raleigh's new cable system.

A short business meeting was conducted after the speaker. All present introduced themselves and their spouses and guests.

Bruce awarded plaques and certificates to the following:

Doc Cobb, W4YZX - for 4 years service as past President.

Chuck Littlewood, K4HF - outstanding service to the club over many years.

Jim Bradley, WA4A00 - Help to many members in antenna construction.

Bill Feehan, WB4EOV - Rendering public service for phone patches to Grenada.

Special plaques also were awarded to the following in the 04-64 QSO contest:

Jim Babcock, K4ABJ - 169 QSOs.

Jesse Hodges, W4JG - 168 QSOs.

Jim Bradley, WA4A00 - 132 QSOs.

Ann Bradley, WA4APK, was also recognized for the newsletter. Chuck Littlewood, K4HF, was awarded 1 year's club membership for the name-the-newsletter contest - RARS EXCITER.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

or

(What's on the program for April?)

If you read League Lines in the March issue of QST you saw where Roy Neal, K6DUE, has finished editing the final version of "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier".

It's only been a few months since we saw the original version, but in the interest of knowing how it came out and with the assurance of a sampling of the membership that this isn't 'overkill', I've asked for the loan of a copy of the new version. I'll get that reproduced and have it for the April program.

It runs 28 minutes and draws heavily upon tape shot during the STS-9 mission by some 40 television stations. With TNX to DOC for help with the monitors, see you at the meeting.

wa9new



HAPPY EASTER

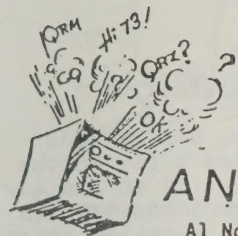
Teresa Thacher was recognised and thanked for her calligraphy on the plaques and certificates.

Susan Feehan received applause as she will become an American citizen next week.

Drawings were held for the door prizes. Winners were Bill Brandenburg-W2BBN, Doris Plaks, XYL of Norm Plaks-KN4G, and Ann Bradley-WA4APK.

After an evening of good fellowship, food and drink, awards and an excellent speaker, the meeting was adjourned.

Marty Silver NY4H
Secretary, RARS



SIGNALS AND NOISE

Al Nowakowski, W4VP

After the first hundred or so hamfests you attend, you develop certain hamfest routines. Here are mine.

I like to arrive early. The old "early bird" cliché is appropriate for hamfests. Many of the best deals are completed and the goodies tucked away in someone's trunk before the sun rises above the horizon.

Don't dress up for a hamfest. Comfortable walking shoes are an absolute must, mine are Nike's. I also carry an extra sweater or jacket and some rain gear to most outdoor events. You just never know how the weather will turn! Of course, a cap with your call on it is uniform of the day.

I also take my "hamfest bag" along. Mine is an army surplus canvas bag big enough to hold two callbooks. It has a nice wide shoulder strap that is long enough to go around my neck. It's perfect for hauling all the little goodies you purchase. I've seen most every kind of bag used for the purpose from normal shopping bags (rank novice 'festers) to heavy durable duffle bags big enough to carry a full-size monobander in (these are the SERIOUS hamfest shoppers.) I kind of lean toward the airline bag, especially if it has an overseas logo on it. I just haven't found one cheap enough yet.

Inside the hamfest bag, I carry a Swiss army knife and a 9 volt battery wired in series with an LED, a 1K ohm resistor and a couple of 8 inch wires. This is my all purpose tool and test kit. The battery and LED let me quickly check tube filaments, diodes, coax center conductors, etc. It's saved me lots of grief on several occasions.

If I'm going to sell stuff, I team up with another ham. This accomplishes two things. One guy can roam around shopping while the other tend the store. Also a big junk pile attracts more attention than a small one.

—FROM THE EDITOR—

Do you like it?? THE RARS EXCITER-- sort of has pazazz, doesn't it? Just think of RARS as the amplifier and the newsletter as the exciter.

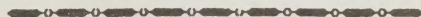
The name suggests a source of stimulation, a feeder of information, a boost of output. We hope this description also applies to the newsletter. We'd like to think the articles and information published in the newsletter are exciting and stimulating, and that they inspire and encourage member output. We hope the newsletter is a boost to club activity.

I'd like to thank the membership for their interest and participation in naming the newsletter. The response was excellent. We had a rather lengthy list of really good suggestions. It was not an easy choice. The membership was invited to the newsletter committee meeting and the attendance was "fair." To avoid any partiality, the submitter's names were omitted from the list of suggestions given to the voters.

We cast vote after vote by a show of hands, first eliminating those with one or no vote. Then as we whittled down the list, we cut out the lowest ones each time around. Finally the choice was RARS EXCITER, suggested by Chuck Littlewood, K4HF.

I like it! I like the sound, I like the new masthead, I like the correlation. I hope you do too. But like it or not, at least until 3500 cover sheets are used up, your newsletter is THE RARS EXCITER. Help me keep it exciting!

Ann, WA4APK



I generally stick around till the prize drawing. There are often some great last minute "I don't want to haul it home" bargains.

I'm not much for wives or girlfriends at hamfests, unless they're hams and fully appreciate the attractions of the junk box.

As for how much money to take, well, let your conscience be your guide, but slip a little extra in your back pocket just in case that "once in a lifetime" deal shows up. Happy hamfesting!

NO MORE COMMERCIAL TICKETS ? ?

The two-way radio business is undergoing some fundamental changes as a result of the de-regulation fervor of the present administration.

One change of significance to many radio amateurs is the elimination of the FCC commercial technician licenses. (This should not be confused with the amateur technician class license.) In past times, the commercial licenses were the First and Second Class Radiotelephone licenses. Later, they were replaced by the General Radiotelephone Operator's license. At this moment (March 8) the FCC has not formally eliminated the license, but it has shown every intention of doing so.

The possible elimination of the technician license caused great concern in the two-way radio and broadcast industries. The license has been a prime factor in employment eligibility, promotions, and similar evaluations. It also purportedly insured a minimal prerequisite technical background for persons operating or adjusting radio equipment, especially important in today's crowded spectrum.

As an alternative to its license, the FCC proposed industry create its own certification program. The National Association of Business and Educational Radio, NABER, a two-way radio user's group, has stepped forward with just such a certification program.

NABER proposes to "grandfather" all existing FCC licensees into its new certification program. However, to qualify for the "grandfather" exemption, you must apply for your certificate before April 30. The deadline is likely to be extended, but there is no guarantee of that.

After the deadline, persons seeking certification must take an examination (reportedly to be administered at FAA offices) similar to the present FCC exam. There will be

400th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You may recall that Tom, N4IZE, made some preliminary inquiries a few months ago on the subject of having an Amateur Radio event staged in conjunction with the 400th Anniversary Celebration starting this summer. If so, you'll recall that Tom's thoughts were well received by the 'powers-that-be'. Perhaps the ball is rolling.

I am in receipt of a letter from Tom White, KA4SZI, Secretary of the Fessenden Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 1695, Manteo, NC 27954. Tom says:

"...there may be the possibility of setting up a special events station in the vicinity of the Elizabeth II Visitors Center. We would certainly welcome the assistance of any other amateur radio operators who would like to participate in such an event."

So, if you're amongst those that spend some time at the beach each summer, or if you really dig operating a special events station, get ahold of Tom and the Fessenden club. It sounds like they've got room for you!

wa9new



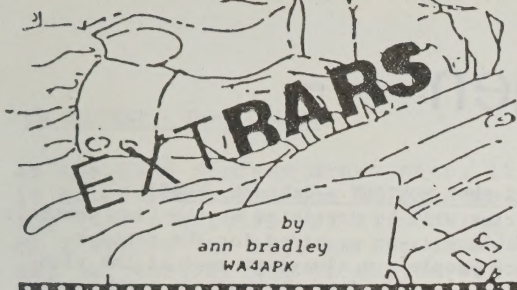
a charge of thirty to thirty-five dollars to take the exam.

To qualify for the "grandfather" exemption, you must apply to NABER with a photocopy of your commercial license, an application form, and ten dollars. Further details and application forms are available from:

N.A.B.E.R.
1330 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel. (202) 887-0920

de W4VP



Hope all of you enjoyed the Awards Banquet as I did. Thanks to Pete, N4HQZ, for arranging a most entertaining speaker. Congrats to the most deserving awards recipients of 1983.

I understand a few RARS people are scheduling upgrade tests. Gud Luck to all. Please let ExtrARS know the results.

Thanks to Danny and the K4ITL repeater for the Teleconference Net on March 8. It concerned the legality of antennas and amateur practices and the steps that an amateur can take to legally resolve problems that can arise between him and his neighbors/community/city. The discussion and the questions given the panel were all very informative. The audio quality was excellent.

Charlotte Hamfest reports a record breaking crowd. I was there Sunday and it seemed to have thinned out a bit by that time. Hoped to report Raleigh prize winners. Heard Walt Shorts name called--seems he had left early and XYL Nancy lost out on a microwave. Sorry Walt! Has Nancy let you out of the doghouse yet?

Wilbur, WD4RDT, of the Cary ARC did win a 2 meter amplifier plus 2 tickets to the RARS Hamfest. Congrats Wilbur, you saved face for the Capitol City. Hope those were winning tickets.

Back to Walt, N4SW--RARS and all the Newsletter folks thank you for the super photos in the centerfold. When you want quality, Folks, go with a pro! And thanks to Wah-4-Ah-Oo for the montane.

Jim Johnson, W4JUG, had a unique experience recently. He rode to Charlotte and back in the helicopter involved in the simulated nuclear emergency. He describes it as riding in a car with four flat tires, but he had fun.

'NEW LINE

by Bruce Eggers, WA9NEW
President, RARS

Every ham knows about Part 97.1. That's where the 'Basis and Purpose' of the Amateur Radio Service is spelled out. That's where the government tells us what it's going to cost us to have a ham ticket.

What do I mean by 'cost'? Is this where the Commission's schedule of fees is printed? Is the government price-fixing the cost of ham gear? No, of course not. What 97.1 says is that it is in the interest of the majority for government to reserve some portion of an immensely valuable public resource, the radio frequency spectrum, for the exclusive use of a very small minority, ham radio operators. But in turn the government expects a little something back on behalf of the majority. And 97.1 tells what.

Public Service is first. That's a familiar hook for us to hang our hat on. But how many of us spend how much time in public service activities? (Don't count the majority of the hours you spend on "nets"! That activity is overwhelmingly nothing more than the individual's preferred mode of operating for personal pleasure and has nothing more to do with 'public service' than the majority of DXing has to do with 'international goodwill'!)

How about helping young people get started in Amateur Radio? Now there's something worthwhile! Do you remember what Owen Garriott, W5LFL, said about his start in Amateur Radio? How it was the code classes put on by the Enid Amateur Radio Club, W5HTK, while Owen was still a high school youngster that put him on the road to an EE PhD and two missions in space with more to come? Look around the industry. A disproportionately high percentage of the top people in the fields of electronics and communications are those who, like Owen, got their start as teenagers in Amateur Radio!

How does relate to RARS? To YOU?
Stay tuned!

From the Chairmen ---

TICKET SALES - Roger, W3EZR

EZR's QUICK 'N EASY GUILT LOSS PLAN --

By this time I expect a number of you are feeling a touch of guilt about your past (or lack thereof) in our annual extravaganza--the RARS Hamfest. You like RARS even if you can't make all the meetings, and and even if you don't know all the members on a first name basis. But when the chairman of the Social committee asked you to help out by arranging for a personal appearance of the Beach Boys--well, you had something else you were doing that weekend, right?

All right brothers and sisters, step right up for EZR's sure fire, quick 'n easy guilt loss plan. Right now, for a limited time only, you have an opportunity to perform a much needed service to your club without having to mortgage your first born child. (My apologies to parents of teenagers who were looking for such an opportunity.)

I know that about now you're saying to yourselves, "Sure, I won't have to arrange for the Beach Boys, but he still wants me to arrange for a personal visit by Gov. Hunt." NOT SO! You have no idea how fortunate you are this day! I am presenting you with the perfect answer to your conscience and your feet. (Feet? Did I hear him say feet?) Yes, I said feet! How often have you gone home from a hamfest with aching feet? You won't have to this year. You don't have to suffer---there is an answer. I have reserved two tables and chairs just for you to sit and rest at for a while before going back into the melee or home to the XYL. All you need to do is sign up for your chair reservations ahead of time. It's that simple! So come, enjoy the Hamfest, ease your conscience and you'll be doing your part in our extravaganza. And, oh yes, while you're resting your aching feet, could I ask you to -----

SET-UP - Alan, KA4NSA

Anyone interested in helping set-up for the Hamfest, please contact Alan, KA4NSA anytime at 876-4192. We will be meeting on Sunday morning at the hamfest at 6:00am at Your House Restaurant on Highway 70, or alternatively at Crabtree at 6:30 am. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

HOME BREW CONTEST - Johnnie, WA9SZL

Entries will be presented at the Club Booth... A table will be provided for the contest. Since people are always present at the club table, security for your gear is good.

Please have a cover letter with information on Your Own Entry--Name, Call, "What it is," etc. Entries will be judged on four (4) levels--safety, design, construction originality. Ten points for each level with fractions of ten allowed. Prizes will be awarded for first and second place.

No entries after 11:30 am. Judging starts at 12:00 noon. Let's show the world what a ham can build!!

SOUND COMMITTEE - Tom, N4IZE

The sound crew job is divided into 4 parts.

STRINGING WIRE: This is on Sunday 9 AM, April 8th, and will take about 2 to 2-1/2 hours.

HANGING SPEAKERS: This is on Saturday 5PM April 14th, just before Hospitality Room time and should take about 2 hours.

FINAL SETUP & CHECKOUT: This is to be done IMMEDIATELY after breakfast on THE day Sunday 7AM April 15th, and should take about one hour. Most are going to eat at YOUR HOUSE RESTURANT, Hwy 70 West of Crabtree Valley (Dutch treat).

TAKE DOWN: This is IMMEDIATELY following the big prize drawing, and should take about 1-1/2 hours.. the 15th just happens to be my birthday and I don't plan to spend it all on a ladder.

Anyone who has a 20 ft. ladder I can borrow for this please contact me by phone or radio (phone 782-0791)

CLUB TABLE - Bob, K4MC

Tag all equipment with Name and Price. Call Bob Corns-K4MC for pick-up of any equipment donated to the club. Please pick up equipment not sold after prize drawing.

CW CONTEST - Bert, W4FMN

As the RARS Hamfest draws near, it is hoped the multitude is exercising its collective wrist, punching or slapping the key, as the case may be, whether big or wee, to win the Key Contestoree. Yes, the time all have been awaiting, the time to show the folks back home who has the Class Key. Listen to the squawk box at the hamfest. We may start a bit early. As programmed now, the Big Contest will start at 1330 hours sharp and QRT at 1445 so nobody will miss out on a chance to score on the Big 'Un, the RARS Prize of 'em all----at 1500 hours. Before that magic hour, remember you hot fists will be banging away in the West Community Room. We follow the QCWA act. If they QRT early, we can start before 1330 hours. So listen to announcements real closely as the 1330th hour approaches.

This year, we will start at 7½ wpm. Last year few showed up to start at 20 so we will lower the sights for the first runs this year and maybe get the timid along with the Types A, machos and other Cream of the Crop.

As each run of X wpm is completed, all papers (no disks or cassettes) will be scooped up, graded, and those still in the running, announced. Remember YOU may be able to relate orally every letter you heard BUT the ballgame's on the scoreboard. If WE cannot read ur scribbling after fairly diligent (we do have a time sked) checking, then SORRY OLE BUDDY you will have fired the course. Next man up! Paper and pencils will be provided but if you prefer ball point pens, mill machines, quills, OK, bring your own. Need we remind anyone---no computers, recorders, fax, RTTY, or black boxes. This is a FIST contest. Good luck to all. Hope you have a ball. The budget is tight, so try as I might, fancy prizes are out of sight. One winner gets one prize. However, everyone who finishes a run will receive a handsome certificate signed by ole Bert the W4FMN.

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HOSPITALITY - Ann, WA4APK; Murray, W6MVZ

Saturday night, April 14, 7:30 until--- RARS will host the Pre-Hamfest Hospitality Room in the West Community Room at Crabtree Valley Mall. This is the opportunity to meet and greet our visiting hams and vendors. We hope all RARS members will come out and help welcome our guests. Wear your name tag and introduce yourself to those wearing "Visitor" tags. Don't leave a stranger standing in a corner alone while RARS folks chat among themselves.

Advance Hamfest tickets will be sold and door prizes will be given that night. Bring your QSL card to tack on the "I Wuz Here" board. RARS will provide refreshments and, as in the past, members are asked to bring along a favorite snack to add to the "Goodie Table."

And please, help publicize the Hospitality Room. Whenever you talk to "non-RARS" hams, on or off the air, invite them to come. Those who work "Talk-in" should invite each person he talks to and give him directions. It's a fun party for RARS members, but the word is "Hospitality." See you there for a super evening.

PRIZES, MEETING COORDINATOR - Chuck, K4HF
THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE WEST COMMUNITY ROOM CRABTREE MALL, DURING THE HAMFEST.

10:45 - 11:30	NAVY MARS
11:30 - 12:30	Q.C.W.A.
12:45 - 1:30	J.F.K.NET
1:30 - 2:45	CW PROFICIENCY CONTEST

PRIZE DRAWINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES.

11:00 AM

1:30 PM

***** 3:00 PM MAIN PRIZE *****

WANTED - ONE CHAIRMAN

Need one each member type for cleanup chairman. Duties involve not too much time but must be willing to recruit help and oversee the cleanup of trash when Hamfest is over. Use of a pickup desirable but not mandatory. This is your chance to help with the club Hamfest and a perfect excuse to refuse the other chairmen when asked to serve on their committees... All applicants call Jim Bradley 851-2437 QUICKLY please.





ELECTION RESULTS IN ! !

No, we can't tell you if it's Mondale or Hart. And we certainly can't tell you if it's Reagan or Whomever. But we can tell you it's K4SWN over WD4CNR.

Rae Everhart, K4SWN, defeated Ian Black, WD4CNR, in the SCM election, reportedly with strong support from the central part of the state. With a change in the office of the Old North State's Highest Elected Official (take note you of the donkey or elephant persuasion) you might expect a change in the occupancy of some appointed officials. Such is the case.

AB4W, who has done a truly outstanding job as Wake County EC and SGL (State Government Liaison) tendered his resignation to the new Section Manager as protocol would dictate and was promptly rewarded with the appointment as SEC (Section Emergency Coordinator). Reed will also continue to serve as SGL.

Our new SEC and Wake county EC will be our guests at the April RARS meeting. Come on out and meet the new EC and give him the same support we've given Reed. (Or more!)

WANTED:

A person or committee to design and manufacture Morse code training tapes for the RARS Novice Classes to start September 1984. Also someone to teach a two hour "Introduction to Morse Code" class. Also volunteers to tutor students in code and Novice theory outside of normal class hours. Here's your chance to be an Elmer. No volunteers = no classes. It's up to you! Contact AA4L or WA9NEW.

ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS !!!

RARS members. Advanced or Extra class are encouraged to register as Volunteer Examiner for upcoming Volunteer Exams.

Volunteer Examiner application forms can be obtained from Rae D. Everhart, K4SWN
P.O.Box 41, Lexington, N.C 27293

From the *Capacitor*, Pike County ARC, Inc., Winslow, Indiana:

The following is a partial list of the items carried in stock by B&M Electronics.

1) For those who have trouble blowing fuses, we have 30 amp fuses marked 3 amps.

2) *Antenna tower holes* — We have these in assorted sizes and depths. Why dig when you can buy a ready-made hole? NOTICE: We have improved the design on some of these by threading them. Now if you have to move, you can unscrew them and take them along. Millions of small holes have been sold to golf courses.

3) *Antenna grease* — One application is all that is needed. Standing waves are lucky if they can hang on laying down.

4) *Everett Dirksen Lozenges* — A fine product that makes SSB sound like AM. These lozenges provide a golden voice, compared to the silver voice of William Jennings Bryan Lozenges sold by our competitors.

5) *Smoke signal kit* — This kit will modify any transceiver so it will send smoke signals. Herschel Russell Jr., WA9ABE, used one of these on Field Day, loading his Drake TR3 on 40 meters into a 20-meter antenna.

No trade-ins. Cash on the barrel head.
Call for prices. ☐

Happy April Fool's Day!

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BONES

The body of every organization has four bones.

There are "WISHBONES" who wish someone else would do the work.

There are "JAWBONES" who do all the talking but very little else.

There are the "KNUCKLE BONES" who knock everything others try to do.

Finally, there are the "BACKBONES" who get under the load and do the work.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

Seems like Winter may have run its course. Officially Spring is here and hopefully the weather will moderate (don't bet on it yet). So now the time has arrived for the Hams' thoughts to lightly turn to — antennas — new ones, different ones, more of them, beams, towers, rotors, and all of the other outside work that has been delayed because of 'ole man Winter (guess my age). It's time for trimming trees, digging in the ground, & raising things — all to clear and support those pesky antennas, confuse the birds, & irritate the neighbors. So get out the slide rules, calculators, bulldozers and start the planning. Do you need help? Holler and you'll get some — the hams around here are most helpful when comes time to raise towers and antennas!!

'Ol whats-her-face decided our early few days vacation would be at the beach, & we had a great time just doing NOTHING for a couple of days. Came back on Sat. so we could go to Charlotte Hamfest on Sunday. Bruce, Dexter, Ann, & I took the bird to get there & back. We really enjoyed the Hamfest — but just wonder why all the conversation suddenly stopped while we went up through the clouds — seemed strange, but maybe the clouds had anti-audio particles in them — Hi...

I understand Jim Adderholt, KI4DH, now has a vertically polarized 40 meter beam, thanks to the high winds recently — problem is that it interferes with the TH-7 underneath. Hang on Jim, we'll get it fixed yet!

I've gotta get in shape (spelled diet) so I can tackle the Winters ravages around here — dipoles down and loose, & a hole in the co-ax courtesy of some *\$%&#""\$ with a rifle. Maybe I can get by pet birdcage on 80 meters off the ground this Spring — who knows?

HAMFEST

FEST

Pete Thacher
N4HQZ

Well Fest Fans, there are only 10 days left until RARS Hamfest '84. Lets review. Here is a list of chair-persons and a critical event schedule. See any of these chairs to schedule your support and show up at any of the times to lend a hand.

TICKET SALES -	ROGER W3EZR
SOUND -	TOM N4IZE
CLUB TABLE-	BOB K4MC
TALK IN -	WARD W4RVE
GENERATORS-	BILL WB4EOV
FLEA MKT-	BILLY K4EWC
RENTALS-	CECIL KA4JKA
HOSPITALITY	ANN&MURRAY
CLEAN-UP	ANYBODY
SET UP	ALAN KA4NSA

SUNDAY APR 7 9:AM — WIRE STRINGING PARTY.

SATURDAY APR 14 6:PM HOSPITALITY SET UP

SATURDAY APR 14 7-10 HOSPITALITY TIME

SATURDAY APR 14 10+ MARK OFF PARTY

SUNDAY APR 15 6AM YOUR HOUSE FOR BREAKFAST PARTY.

SUNDAY APR 15 7AM HAMFEST SET UP

SUNDAY 8-3 TICKET SELLING ETC

SUNDAY 4- CLEAN-UP

Right now the preparation for the coming BIGGIE event for the club is taking most of the spare time — it's Hamfest time again, so I guess the antennas will have to wait til after April 15th — see you at the hospitality room on Sat. nite and at the Hamfest on Sunday!!

73 & CUL

WAH-4-AH-OO, alias JIM

HEY MA!! Why do they call it a TWO meter set when it only has ONE ???

20 METER FLAG POLE VERTICAL

This 20 meter flag pole vertical which I first saw in operation, was built by W8RJL in Virginia Beach.

Since he had a 20 ft. aluminum flag pole which is just right for a quarter wave vertical, and had it in the front yard, he thought he might as well put it to work, and it looks just like a flag pole!!! (Don't forget to buy a flag though.)

The flag pole vertical is inconspicuous, if you work in planned stages. Your neighbors will be hard pressed to complain.

Drive the ground rod, dig the hole, put up the pole and fly the flag in as short a time as possible. Try to do it all in an hour or so at the most and be sure it looks neat when completed. Fly the flag for a week or so, to get the neighbors used to seeing it, then late one evening connect the gamma match to the flag pole, slice the sod with a shovel to hide the RG-58 or RG-8 coax, adjust the gamma match for the minimum SWR in your favorite portion of the 20 meter band, remove the meter, and enjoy your first contact.

You might want to plant some flowers around the base in case questions are raised about the gamma match. The answer is simple--an automatic watering system!!

You can expect SWR of less than 1:5 to 1 over the entire 20 meter band. W8RJL has worked Australia on SSB using 100 watts. He has also worked Japan, Russia on CW with the same power equally well.

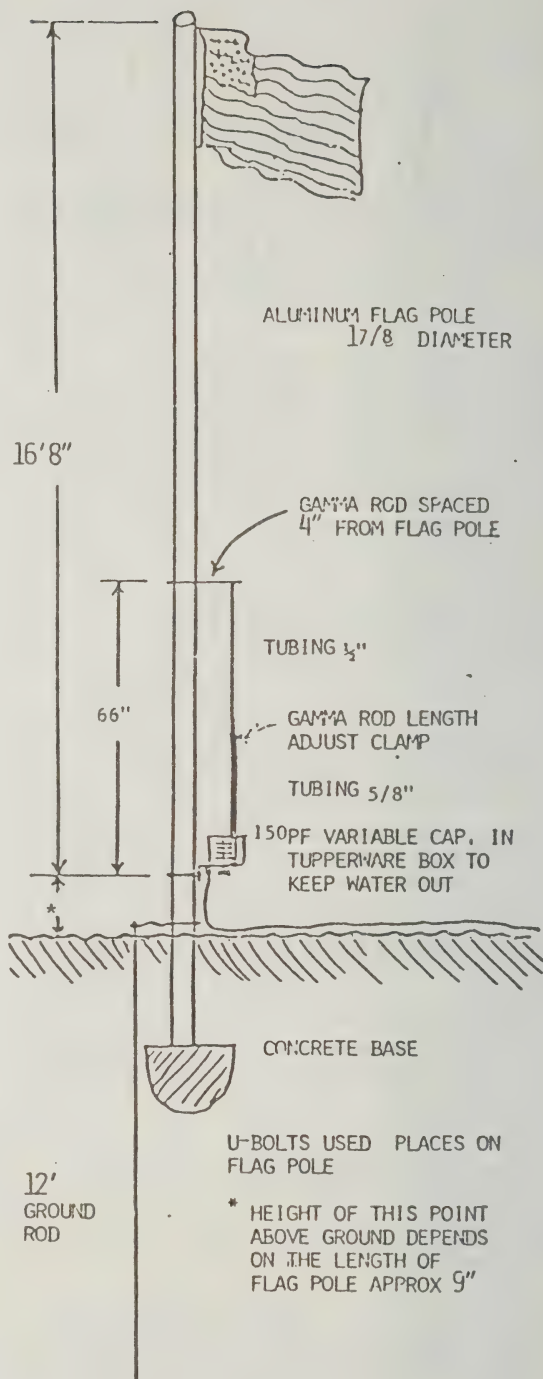
This vertical will not perform as good as a three element tribander at 40 feet, but it will provide many good contacts. If you don't particularly like 20 meters, then you could scale the vertical down for 15 meters or up for 40 meters, or even add small traps for multi-band operation.

Cost? Well, if you already have a flag pole you are in luck, but if you don't, commercial kits are available at a moderate cost or thick wall conduit is readily available at your local electrical supply house.

From a safety standpoint the RF voltage has not been checked, but it is known that the voltage is zero at the bottom and max at the top. The current is just the opposite. If you are in an area where someone might touch it, or the dog may use it for a watering spot while transmitting, a small decorative fence is recommended.

Good Luck and Happy DXing!

Jeff, W4KXL



ON THE REDUCTION OF TVI COMPLAINTS
IN THE CITY OF RALEIGH, NC
by
WA9NEW

The after dinner presentation by Bob Thomas, Raleigh Cable TV Administrator, was very well received by RARS members at the Annual Awards Banquet last month. There were two particular items of note during that presentation which have prompted the development of the TVI Complaint Eliminator. These two points were: 1. The increased likelihood of Amateur interference to the new wide-band cable system being installed by Raleigh Cablevision, and 2. The fully addressable, computer controlled scheme used by Raleigh Cablevision to instantaneously initiate or terminate any subscribers access to premium-charge scrambled programming included on the new system.

Following that presentation, on behalf of RARS members, I was able to arrange a series of meetings between Mr. Thomas; Raleigh Cablevision officials; and a select committee of RARS members which included representatives from the Carolina Contesters group, some of our finest technical talent, and members with an outstanding record of public service communications. We were highly successful in convincing the Raleigh Cablevision officials of the benefits in fostering the growth and capabilities of Amateur Radio in Raleigh and we found them to be very supportive of our proposal for a cooperative program which should nearly eliminate calls to Mr. Thomas' office, Raleigh Cablevision offices and/or RARS members homes from those Cablevision subscribers subjected to TVI by the operation of high power Amateur installations. The accompanying block diagram outlines the operation of the device. Full construction details will be made available to RARS members following a determination of patent eligibility by the US Patent Office. A brief discussion of the operation of the device follows:

1. The filter bank is comprised of a network of high-Q active filters which detect the presence of RF energy on the cable from any authorized Amateur band or MARS frequency.

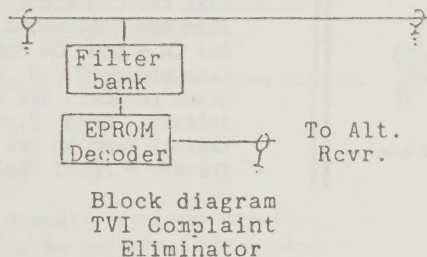
2. The filter stage output enables an EPROM decoder and couples a channel-selective output to the decoder.

3. The EPROM decoder, which will be burned by Raleigh Cablevision, will then descramble the specified premium programming and output this signal to a second output.

4. The alternative receiver, to be customer/potential complainant provided, will be secreted at an appropriate location on the subscriber's premises, presumably in a basement furnace room, the attic, or a secured external access utility room.

In operation, upon the receipt of any Amateur originated interference, the presence of such interference to the family TV set will constitute adequate notification to the head of the household that the system has been activated. One precautionary note must be made to RARS members who contemplate the installation of this device in complaining neighbor's homes. You may, upon pulling the "BIG SWITCH" at 2AM, be subjected to calls from your neighbor requesting that you continue to operate for just another 15 minutes while a rerun of Deep Throat concludes on the Playboy Channel!

Initial production of the TVI Complaint Eliminator is well underway and should be available three days prior to our next meeting.



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SCOTT-A-RAMA + W4DW = FUN FOR ALL

Mark your calendar. Saturday, May 5, is the date. Meridith College is the place. Noon 'til 5PM is the time. Come on out and help put a station on the air.

WA4YOM has the lead. Get in on the ground floor. Sign-up NOW!

# LANGUANGE

Pete Thacher

N4HQ 'na Z



Happy Quier Zebra

Here I am again after letting WA9 north east and west have this space last month for rebuttal. I did like his weathervane. You know writing a monthly column is getting to be difficult. Hard to find topics and even harder to find the time, so I think with this column I will cease to attempt an epistle every month. I will attempt to provide one when a topic of note strikes my fancy. Maybe I'll join Burnout Bert for a beer and we can co-author something. So as to add some value to this month's column, I will attempt to review a new piece of hardware I acquired which may be of interest to others: the MFJ 1224 computer interface and 1226 software cartridge. I decided last Christmas that it might be nice to copy CW on a computer and delve into this RTTY business without spending a bundle. Review of all readily available interfaces and software clearly shows that the majority is Commodore oriented, and offers the widest selection and perhaps the best price. After all a VIC20 goes for \$78.00. So I decided to get one for the single purpose of CW/RTTY use. As such I don't need gobs of memory or disks or other such expensive gadgets. Now an interface. Well the MFJ is the cheapest \$114 including the software cartridge. So you can get airborne for \$192.00. Almost. The MFJ does not come with a power supply, so somehow you need 12-15vdc at 140ma. MFJ sells one for \$10, but I built one. Cost me around \$18 but mines got a neat meter on it \$7 and is variable from 1.2 to 18 vdc and I had a ball building it. How does it work. Well it works fine and the software is very easy to use, commands can be memorized in a very short time. MFJ's documentation is not that great, but then whose it. And the little box copies both CW and RTTY very nicely IF you can tune your radio just right so the little red lights blink per instructions. This I think would be a lot easier on other than a 520s which seems to move a fair number of khz for a minimum amount of turns on the dial. Once tuned to the correct freq however, the MFJ copies very nicely. CW is 5-99 wpm which is sufficient, and both RTTY and ASCII work on ham 170hz shift as well as wider commercial shifts. And its a pretty little box. Now I got mine from EGE for the \$114 package deal when MFJ direct was \$129. One advantage of the \$129 is you can send it back if you don't like it so nothing to loose. I did find that when you have a question you can call MFJ in Mississippi and eventually you will talk to Stan, who knows all the answers. So just call and ask for Stan the Man. Found one other intersting thing in using an interface for CW - your CW copying (in your head) gets better as you see a visual reinforcement on the screen. Also interesting is to see what speeds brass pounders are really going at and how poor most space their letters. Good fist will copy Q Q Q Q but most arrives C Q Q C Q. Letters seem to get sent at 16-27WPM and spaces at about 10-14. CW forever - April Fooling.



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Don't shove, Folks! There's plenty of room. RARS advertising venture was not a total loss. We have a real live client--thanks to Billy Edwards, K4BWC. I had hoped some of the Hamfest vendors would want space in this issue. If they did, they missed the boat. Don't write it off--sell RARS advertising like Billy did. And when you visit Marshall's Locksmith, tell them you saw the ad in "The RARS Exciter."

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
870 N. MILITARY HIGHWAY  
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23502  
(804) 441-6472  
\*\*1994\*\*

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ALL EXAMINATIONS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 1984 IN NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, ARE BY  
APPOINTMENT ONLY. APPLICATIONS FOR EXAMINATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE  
FOLLOWING CUT-OFF DATES:

JANUARY 24, 1984

APRIL 24, 1984

JULY 24, 1984

OCTOBER 23, 1984

ALL REMOTE EXAMINATIONS IN DISTRICT 5 WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE FOLLOWING  
CITIES ON THE DATES INDICATED BELOW:

CHARLOTTE, NC

Tuesday, April 3, 1984  
Cut-off date for receipt  
of applications: 3-20-84

GREENSBORO, NC

Tuesday, October 2, 1984  
Cut-off date for receipt  
of applications: 9-18-84

APPOINTMENT NOTICES WILL BE MAILED TO APPLICANTS AFTER THE CUT-OFF DATES  
ADVISING THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION.

Note: Remote exam point examinations may be changed and/or postponed subject  
to a minimum number of applications.

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Examinations for handicapped applicants are by special appointment only.  
Contact the Norfolk District Office in writing or by telephone to arrange  
an appointment.

J. J. Freeman  
Engineer in Charge  
Norfolk, Virginia

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**RARS meets each first Wednesday at 7:30 at  
First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Salisbury Street**

## Calendar

- |                                                                             |                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr 4 - Regular RARS Meeting<br>116 S. Salisbury St.                        | Apr 18 - RARS Advisory Board Meeting                                 |
| Apr 7, 8 - The Poland SP-DX Contest                                         | Apr 24 - FCC Exam App. Deadline<br>for Norfolk, 2nd Quarter          |
| Apr 10 - "The RARS Exciter"<br>Newscoy Deadline                             | Apr 24 - ARRL VHF/UHF Spring Sprint<br>220 Mhz 6 pm till 12:00 local |
| Apr 15 - RARS Hamfest<br>Crabtree Valley Mall                               | Apr 25 - Newsletter Committee Meeting                                |
| Apr 16 - ARRL VHF/UHF Spring<br>Sprint 144 Mhz.<br>6 pm till midnight local | Apr 27-29 - Dayton, OH Hamvention                                    |
|                                                                             | May 12, 13 - 1984 ARRL League Planning<br>Meeting, Charleston, W. VA |